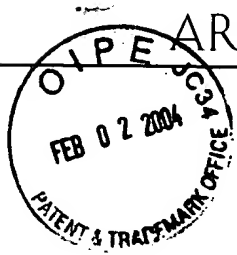


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ARNOLD & PORTER LLP

202.942.5000
202.942.5999 Fax
555 Twelfth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-1206

February 2, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/732,627 filed December 8, 2000
Inventor: Karen L. FINCHER
Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with Plants
Atty. Dkt: 16517.281

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) are the following documents:

1. Request for Oral Hearing Before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences; and
2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier.

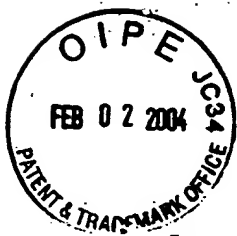
Please charge the statutory fee of \$290.00 for Appellant's Request for Oral Hearing to counsel's deposit account 50-2387, referencing docket number 16517.281. A duplicate copy of this page is attached.

In the event that extensions of time beyond those petitioned for herewith are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any additional fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter LLP Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing docket number 16517.281. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Sincerely,

David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)
Holly Logue Prutz (Reg. No. 47,755)

Enclosures



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re application of:

Karen L. FINCHER

Appln. No.: 09/732,627

Filed: December 8, 2000

Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Association with Plants

Confirmation No.: 8885

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: Lori A. Clow

Atty. Docket No.: 16517.281

**Request for Oral Hearing
Before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Appellant hereby requests an oral hearing before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in the appeal of the above-identified application.

Authorization to charge the official fee for this filing is given in the accompanying transmittal letter.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)
Holly Logue Prutz (Reg. No. 47,755)
Thomas E. Holsten (Reg. No. 46,098)
ARNOLD & PORTER LLP

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Date: February 2, 2004

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